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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,365	11/01/2001	James Lynn Baratuci	TRUSP0105USA	7294

7590 07/21/2003

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EXAMINER

KATCHEVES, BASIL S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/004,365	BARATUCI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Basil Katcheves	3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2001 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

Claim Objections

Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 9. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-32 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,581,341 B1 to Baratuci et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,891,007 to Kleykamp.

Regarding claims 1-3, 11, 13, 17-20, 27, 29 and 31, Baratuci claims (claims 1, 14) a spacer assembly between two glazing panels wherein the spacer has a varying

and repeating manner along a longitudinal axis (claim 1). Baratuci also claims an adhesive sealant as partially encapsulating the spacer (claim 8). However, Baratuci does not claim the spacer as being a ribbed tube. Kleykamp discloses a ribbed tube for use in applications requiring optimum crush resistance (column 1, lines 30-31). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baratuci by using the crush resistant ribbed tube disclosed by Kleykamp (column 1, lines 30-31), as crush resistant spacers are required for double glazed window construction.

Regarding claims 4 and 6, Kleykamp discloses the spacer as being tube shaped and having two opposing sides.

Regarding claims 5 and 21, Baratuci claims a moisture barrier adhered to the sealant (claim 3).

Regarding claims 7, 14, 23 and 32, Kleykamp discloses the tube as being coilable (claim 2).

Regarding claims 8, 15 and 24, Baratuci does not claim the sealant as being a desiccant. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baratuci by making the sealant from a desiccant in order to remove excessive moisture from the window interior.

Regarding claims 9, 10, 16 and 25, Baratuci claims desiccant topcoat joined to the sealant (claim 3).

Regarding claims 12, 22 and 28, Baratuci does not claim a rectangular spacer. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baratuci in view of Kleykamp by using a rectangular spacer in order to better fit between glazing panels.

Regarding claim 26, Baratuci does not claim both the moisture barrier and sealant joined together and both containing a desiccant. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baratuci by using a desiccant in both components in order to remove any moisture trapped between the glazing panels.

Regarding claim 30, Kleykamp discloses the tube as having a smooth interior surface (fig. 2).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited patents listed on the included form PTO-892 further show the state of the art with respect to glazing spacers in general.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Basil Katcheves whose telephone number is (703) 306-0232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman, can be reached at (703) 308-0832.

Application/Control Number: 10/004,365
Art Unit: 3635

Page 5

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7/16/03



Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600